

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

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AVERY ANNOUNCES EFFORTS TO ASSIST FAMILIES OF ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY PERSONNEL

EVANSVILLE – State Rep. Dennis Avery (D-Evansville) announced today that he plans to file two bills for consideration by the Indiana General Assembly that are designed to support the families of men and women called to active duty in the Armed Forces.

Avery was joined by Operation Support on the Homefront Director Larry Rhodes.

The first bill will allow Hoosiers to designate \$1 of their Indiana state tax refund as a contribution to a fund that will provide emergency financial assistance to families of service members on active duty. The fund is to be administered by the Adjutant General's office.

"Because so many of today's active duty personnel come from the ranks of the National Guard and Reserve, their families at home are often left in dire financial straits. Few companies provide 'gap' pay to their employees who are called up for extended periods, and their families must cope with not only the absence of their loved one, but financial uncertainties as well," Avery said.

"This fund can help close that gap by providing emergency assistance and give our soldiers added peace of mind as they know that their fellow Hoosiers are helping their families bear the financial burden of their service," he added.

The second will create Military Family Leave for parents and spouses of armed services personnel who are preparing for deployment. The unpaid leave offers job protection similar to that provided by the Family Medical Leave Act.

"As a Vietnam veteran, I know full well how stressful it is for families to prepare for a loved one's departure. There are many details to attend to, and a real need for unhurried time with family and friends. This bill will allow families to take additional time with their soldiers without the threat of losing their jobs," Avery said.

Avery said it is important for area residents to contact Gov. Mitch Daniels and Indiana House Speaker Brian Bosma (R-Indianapolis) to request that his bills be granted a hearing during the 2006 short session.

"The House leadership is stressing that our short session should address emergencies," Avery said. "In speaking with military families and with Operation Support on the Homefront, it's clear that the needs of our brave Hoosier soldiers and their families meet that standard and should be addressed by the General Assembly."